NOC from Neyveli Lignite Corporation

†3206. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is mandatory to obtain N.O.C. from Neyveli Lignite Corporation for allotment of lignite block in Rajasthan; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is a fact that allotment of Raneri lignite block to R.S.M.M. a State Government undertaking, has been cancelled by Union Government on the suggestions of Neyveli Lignite Corporation; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. Under the revised coal mining policy circulated *vide* Ministry of Coal letter dated 12.12.2001, a State Government company or undertaking is required to obtain a certificate from Coal India Limited (CIL) or Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC), as the case may be, to the effect that CIL or NLC has no plan or willingness to undertake mining operation in the concerned coal/lignite block.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Central Government has, due to techno-economic reasons, cancelled allocation of Raneri lignite block to RSMML. However, in lieu of Raneri block, RSMML has been allocated Gurha (West) lignite block, which has a greater potential of lignite compared of Raneri.

Coal import

3207. SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of coal imported during the year 2003-04 and 2004-05; and

(b) the steps taken to increase the coal mining in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) The quantum of coal imported during the year 2003-04 and 2004-05 (Provisional) is 21.68 million tonnes and 26.13 million tonnes respectively.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) The following steps have been taken to increase the coal mining/ production in India:

(1) 100 mining projects have been identified for implementation during Tenth Plan;

(2) Improvement in equipment utilization, mechanization/modernization of existing and new mines, timely implementation of projects and increasing productivity in underground and opencast mines.

Further, Government has allotted 68 captive coal blocks to different consumers for captive use.

Captive mining

3208. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has written to the Union Government for allotment of Tadicherla coal mine block of SCCL for captive mining;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Government has also written to the Union Government for allotment of seven coal mine blocks of SCCL to meet the requirement of Krishna Patnam Thermal Power Station;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Union Government is considering to allot the coal mines for captive mining; and

(f) if so, by when and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, on the recommendation of the Government of Andhra Pradesh Tadicherla-coal block has been allocated to Andhra Pradesh Power Generation Corporation under Government dispensation.

(c) and (d) Government of Andhra Pradesh has written to the Central Government requesting for allocation of the following six coal blocks to the Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation under Government dispensation to carry out mining operations and supply coal to the power plants. No name of any specific power plant has been mentioned in this regard.